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United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
9-20 July 2001

Draft report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/54 V of 15 December 1999, the General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June/July 2001.

2. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided to establish a preparatory committee open to participation by all States, which would hold no fewer than three sessions, the first to be held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2000.

3. The Preparatory Committee subsequently held its first session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2000; its second session in New York from 8 to 19 January 2001; and its third session in New York from 19 to 30 March 2001. The reports of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference are contained in document A/CONF.192/1.

4. By its decision 55/415 of 20 November 2000, the General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in New York, from 9 to 20 July 2001.

II. Organizational matters and proceedings of the Conference

A. Opening and duration of the Conference

5. The United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was opened on 9 July 2001 by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Conference elected Camilo Reyes Rodriguez (Colombia) as President of the Conference. The President of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly addressed the Conference on 9 July. On the same day, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations subsequently addressed the Conference on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Joao Honwana

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of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary-General and Mohammad Sattar of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services served as Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference, which met from 9 to 20 July 2001, held 10 plenary meetings and __ informal meetings.

6. At its 1st meeting, on 9 July, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure (A/CONF.192/L.1), as orally revised.

7. The Conference began the high-level segment of its general exchange of views at the Ministerial level at its 1st meeting, on 9 July, and heard statements by representatives of Colombia, Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), Mozambique, the Netherlands, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Mexico, Japan, Spain, Qatar (in its capacity as Chairman of the League of Arab States for the month of July) and Andorra.

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 July, the Conference continued the high-level segment of its general exchange of views and heard statements by the representatives of Bangladesh, Sweden, Austria, Belarus, Sudan, Lithuania, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Germany, China, Lesotho, Thailand, the Czech Republic and Mali (on behalf of the francophone group).

9. Also at its 2nd meeting, on 9 July 2001, Carlos dos Santos (Mozambique), in his capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, introduced the reports to the Conference, as contained in document A/CONF.192/1.

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 July, the Conference continued the high-level segment of its general exchange of views and heard statements by the representatives of Chile (on behalf of the Rio Group), the Russian Federation, Australia, Venezuela, Viet Nam (on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations), Cambodia, Egypt, Peru, Slovenia, Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Jamaica, Ukraine, Italy, Togo, Kazakhstan, Mali, the Solomon Islands, the Philippines, Senegal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi and Zambia.

11. At its 4th meeting, on 10 July, the Conference began its consideration of the draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1). Statements were made by representatives of Japan, Norway, Jordan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the League of Arab States), the United States of America, Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), Colombia, Holy See, Canada, Cuba, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Viet Nam, Mali and Nepal.

12. At its 5th meeting, on 11 July, the Conference continued the high-level segment of its general exchange of views and heard statements by the representatives of Rwanda, Morocco, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Algeria, Mongolia, Chile, Singapore, Finland, Hungary, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Guatemala, Ireland, Romania, Poland, Viet Nam, Canada, Armenia, Tunisia, Malaysia, Uganda, Croatia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and the Holy See. The Conference also heard statements from the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs (on behalf of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms) and representatives of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American

Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials.

13. At its 6th meeting, on 12 July, the Conference continued its high-level segment by hearing statements from New Zealand, the Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Greece, Namibia (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Argentina, Norway, Cyprus, Indonesia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Jordan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ethiopia, Uruguay (on behalf of MERCOSUR and Bolivia and Chile), Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, the Republic of Moldova, Congo, Madagascar, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Bahrain and Afghanistan. At the same meeting, the Conference also heard statements from the representatives of the Chairman of the Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

14. At its 7th meeting, on 13 July, the Conference concluded the high-level segment of its general exchange of views after hearing statements by the representatives of Uruguay, Mauritius, South Africa, Portugal, France, Paraguay, Monaco, Ghana, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Panama, Cameroon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Israel, Malawi, Botswana, Yemen, Gabon, Belize (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Niger, Guinea, Azerbaijan, Vanuatu, Angola, Albania, Nepal and El Salvador. At the same meeting, the Conference also heard statements from the representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme.

15. At its 8th meeting, on 16 July, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Fundación Gamma Idear, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Russian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Christian Council of Sierra Leone, American Association of People with Disabilities, South Asia Partnership International (on behalf of South Asia Small Arms Network), InterBand, Franciscans International, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches, Pastoralist Peace and Development Initiative, Oxfam, Amnesty International (Sierra Leone) and Human Rights Watch, World Forum on the Future of Sports Shooting Activities, British Shooting Sports Council, Canadian Institute for Legislative Action, Forum Waffenrecht, National Rifle Association of America, Single Action Shooting Society, South Africa Gun Owner's Association, Sporting Clays Association of America, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, Fair Trade Group, Federation of European Societies of Arms Collectors, Safari Club International, Million Mom March, Unitarian Universalist Association, Gun Free South Africa, Coalition Francais, Federation of American Scientists, Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité, National Center for Economic and Security Alternatives, Fundación Espacios para el Progreso Social, Council of Christian Churches, The Fund for Peace, Arias Foundation, Biting the Bullet Project, Mouvement contre les armes legères en Afrique de l'Ouest, Eminent Persons Group, Institute for Security Studies, Viva Rio and International Action Network on Small Arms.

16. At its 9th meeting, on 18 July, the Conference heard a special message delivered by the representative of the Organization of African Unity.

B. Agenda

17. At its 1st meeting, on 9 July, the Conference adopted the agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the President of the General Assembly.
5. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
6. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Organization of work.
9. Election of officers other than the President.
10. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
    (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
    (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
11. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the Conference.
12. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.
13. General exchange of views.
14. Statements by participants other than States.
15. Adoption of the final documents of the Conference.
16. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

C. Officers

18. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference was as follows:

President:

Camilo Reyes Rodriguez (Colombia)

Vice-Presidents:

Representatives of the following States: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America

D. Documentation

19. The Conference had before it the following documents:

(a) Reports of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General, transmitting the report, prepared with the assistance of a Group of Governmental Experts, on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of small arms and light weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States (A/CONF.192/2);

(c) Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/L.1);

(d) Provisional agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.192/L.2);

(e) Draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1);

(f) Draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/L.5);

(g) Draft report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/L.6);

(h) Provisional programme of work (A/CONF.192/CRP.1);

(i) List of participants (A/CONF.192/10);

(j) Report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.192/12);

(k) List of non-governmental organizations, requesting accreditation in accordance with draft rule 64 (A/CONF.192/INF.1);

(l) Note verbale dated 8 May 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat transmitting the communiqué of the Rio Group on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (A/CONF.192/3);

(m) Note verbale dated 27 June 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations, on behalf of the European Union, addressed to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat (A/CONF.192/4);

(n) Note verbale dated 5 July from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, transmitting the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council/Partnership for Peace contribution to the Conference (A/CONF.192/5);

(o) Letter dated 9 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Conference (A/CONF.192/6);

(p) Note verbale dated 6 July 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan and the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference, transmitting the Chairmen's conclusions on a workshop entitled "Small Arms and Light Weapons: Practical Challenges for the Implementation of Current Undertakings in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council", held in Baku on 21 and 22 June 2001 (A/CONF.192/7);

(q) Note verbale dated 11 July 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.192/8);

(r) Letter dated 11 July 2001 from the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.192/9);

(s) Note verbale dated 10 July 2001 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.192/11);

(t) Bahrain: amendment to A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1 (A/CONF.192/L.3).

III. Credentials

20. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/L.1), according to which the composition of the Credentials Committee shall have the same membership as that of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Conference appointed the Bahamas, China, Ecuador, Gabon, Ireland, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America as members of the Credentials Committee of the Conference.

21. At its 9th meeting, on 18 July, the Conference approved the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.192/12), which had examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States to the Conference and had found them to be in order. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.192/10 and Add.1.

IV. Consideration and adoption of the Programme of Action

22. The Conference held __ informal plenary meetings from 11 to 19 July 2001, at which it continued its consideration and negotiation of the draft programme of action.

23. At its informal plenary meeting, on 16 July, the President submitted a revised draft Programme of Action to the Conference (A/CONF.192/L.5).

24. At its 10th meeting, on 20 July 2001, the Conference adopted the revised draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (see annex).

V. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

25. At its 10th meeting, on 20 July 2001, the Conference adopted its report to the General Assembly by consensus.

Annex

[Insert text of A/CONF.192/L.5/Rev.1.]